4/12/71

Dear Jerry (Gary),

Wish I'd had time to read those copies of the NYPost for 3/11/69 before writing the editor yesterday. They fit perfectly, so I sent him a copy today, with a short note, and copies of the PW and SR reviews.

That review is so corrupt that I find myself wondering if Barkham serves more than his syndicator.

I also has to write David and Harris a rather stiff letter. They will not like it, but it remains a considerable understatement. Until I had mto worry about my quarterly interest on my debt, due last week, and to check my files, I hadn't realized that the contract required publication by 2/8, plus other things they have not done. You well know that they are drfiting, for whatever reason, and that all the promotion thus far has not been by them and in some cases in spite of them. They assure maximum ad and promo effort, which, as of now, means no more than getting the review copies out late.

They answer no letters, keep no promises, try and cadge me into paying extra bill for which I am in no sense responsible (the one thing they talked about when I was in NY the first time, and haven't paid the "advance" yet. Early last week, when I realized that by the end I had to pay the bank, I phoned and spoke to Margaret. I told her that I could understand that they might have temporary financial problems but their silence I could not understand. I said that I had to have $500 of the "advance" by the end of the week for the bank, my slight expense money (including nothing for the Memphis trip, which David aborted after I arranged for it and Harris got excited about it, real incompetence or insanity) to live on. S he promised it. Not one cent has arrived, not one word have I heard.

So, painful as it is to reach 58 in my condition because I do work I regard as essential, it was more unpleasant to have to commemorate it by going to the bank to ask (and get) a slight extension of time for the payment. If and when they pay me what they without doubt owe, and this is without regard for their earlier chiselling), and I pay the bank this year's payment on principal, this quarter's instalment of the interest, what will remain will really be owed the government, but we'll use it to live on, postponing that to create a later emergency.

Because you will be dealing with them, I want you to know about this, for they will not like it and they will not be truthful about it. When you are here next week you will find that it is as I say, and this is really very bad. What it means, what causes it, I do not know, and I hate to think that people like Bud, who have been saying all along that they have been reached, might be right. The thing that troubles me most is their silence, for if they are in a bind, they need only have let me know. Meanwhile, David has been flying to England, to California, and all in silence...Sent Ed Williams a copy of my Post letter with the request that he forward it to you. I was given a beautiful Sony cassette recorder, TC-40. Can you get their stuff at discount? I should have external mike, patch cords for direct dubbing, etc., when I can. If you bring Robert's tapes, I'll get them dubbed, and I can dub to reel for you. Best to everyone,